

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1 - 11. (Canceled)
12. (New) A document comprising:  
a flexible or rigid substrate comprising textile material, paper and/or plastic material, in particular plastic material in film form or card form, and  
a protective coating, wherein the protective coating is less than 1/50 mm thick and in particular has been deposited on the substrate out of the gas and/or plasma phase.
13. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the protective coating has ceramic material, in particular metal oxides, and in particular consists of that material.
14. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the coating contains silanes and/or silazanes.
15. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the protective coating contains fluoride.
16. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least the outside surface of the protective coating has self-cleaning properties.
17. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least the outside surface of the protective coating has self-healing properties.
18. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the refractive index of the protective coating is variable after application to the security document and in particular is irreversibly variable.

19. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the refractive index is variable by the action of electromagnetic radiation, in particular light of a given wavelength, in particular by means of laser light.

20. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises Makrolon or polycarbonate.

21. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the protective coating can be penetrated by electromagnetic radiation, in particular laser light which results in an optical variation in the substrate, without an optical variation in the protective coating.

22. (New) A document as set forth in claim 1 wherein the substrate is provided on the surface with information, in particular labelling and/or image information, and in particular is printed with same, which is between the substrate and the protective coating and the adhesion of the information carriers with respect to the protective coating is greater than with respect to the substrate